and certain designated hill areas include opening of additional fair price shop's to improve access, issue of additional ration cards to cover all families living in such areas that have not been covered so far, creation of additional storage capacity in such areas where necessary, strengthening of delivery arrangements to the fair price shops wherever feasible, introduction of additional commodities for distribution through PDS outlets, elimination of bogus ration cards and effective reach of foodgrains to the people in these areas. The process is to be continual one initially over 1992.

(d) There is no proposals as at present to withdraw the benefits of public distribution system from any section of the population.

Ration shops without food

3134. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th December, 1991 captioned "Ration Shops go without Food" and that barring Naraina Godowns of the other State Civil Supplies Corporation other Godowns in the Capital are vacant at present;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for drastic cut and non-availability of rationed cereals and Sugar for the last several months in Delhi and also in Rajasthan and Orissa States;

(c) the number of complaint received so far in his Ministry from the Fair Price Shops Licences regardiny the alleged malpractices for (i) out of turn allotment of foodgrains instead of taking serially the indents, (ii) poor quality of cereals particularly rice and (iii) shortage in quantum of bags etc. by Food Corporation of India and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation during 1990-91 and upto 30th November, 1991, and action taken thereon so far; and

(d) what remedial measures have so far been taken by Government to restore regular supplies of rationed cereals particularly in Delhi, Rajasthan and Orissa

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There has been no drastic cut in the allotment of foodgrains to States|UTs. except 10 per cent reduction in the month of December, 91 in the allocation of wheat and general withdrawal of increases in the rice allocation made during lean season (August to November 91). There has been no reduction in the allocation of levy sugar to States|UTs. The Central Government has increased the levy Sugar allocation to States|UTs by 5 per cent for the months of August to December, 1991.

(c) Administration of Public Distribution System (PDS) being with the State Governments/U.T. Administrations, statistics in this regard are maintained by them and not by the Central Government.

FCI issues foodgrains conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act standards to State Government|U.T.. Administrations. The agencies lifting foodgrains from FCI depots are permitted to inspect the stocks before accepting the consignment. Delhi Administration has however reported that during the period from April, 1990 to November, 1991 nearly 187 cases for replacement were received, and replacements have been made in most of the cases.

100 cases of shortages were received at the time of delivery and these shortages were made food, wherever found necessary.

(d) Central Government have requested the State Governments and U.T. Administrations from time to time to take steps to ensure timely supplies of PDS commodities to consumers and undertake regular checks and strengthen vigilance. PDS allocations are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the total requirements of States|UTs.